

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 105033

63

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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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GENEVA FOR DISTO AND CSCE; VIENNA FOR MBFR

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED

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PAGE 02 STATE 105033

KISSINGER TRIP; SUNDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED INDIA EXPLODES

NUCLEAR DEVICE; MONDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGE GISCARD WINS; ALSO

ISRAEL SYRIA READY TO ACCEPT CEASE-FIRE, NY TIMES ALSO

FRONTPAGES ATOM TEST BUOYS INDIA'S MORALE.

1A. SATURDAY PAPERS INSIDE HAD SENATE COMMITTEE CUTS MILITARY BUDGET; SOVIET POLICE STOP US CITIZEN OUTSIDE US EMBASSY; SOVIET HINTS IT WILL BAR INTERNATIONAL TALKS PLANNED BY JEWISH SCIENTISTS; ALSO SOVIET PAPER CHARGES US CATERS TO A ZIONIST LOBBY.

1B. SUNDAY PAPERS HAD US USED RAIN-MAKING IN VIETNAM WAR; NYTIMES HAD INDIAN BLAST A SETBACK FOR ARMS PARLEY; WASH POST HAD EXPERTS FEAR INDIAN BLAST MAY TRIGGER NEW RIVALRIES.

1C. MONDAY NYTIMES INSIDE HAS SULLIVAN, INDIA SEEMS NEAR NUCLEAR WEAPONS; ALSO EDITORIAL ON INDIAN TEST; WASHPOST HAS BLAST TEMPORARILY MUFFLES GANDHI CRITICS. NYTIMES ALSO HAS WASHINGTON STORY, OLD AGE IS OVERTAKING SOVIET FLEET, ACCORDING DOD STUDY.

2. BUDGET CUT. SATURDAY NYTIMES FINNEY REPORT SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS CUT 1.3 BILLIONS FROM DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S WEAPONS AND RESEARCH PROGRAMS AND VOTED FOR A 700-MILLION REDUCTION IN LEVEL OF MILITARY AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM. STENNIS COMMITTEE VOTES 21.8 BILLION FOR MILITARY PROCUREMENT, A 5.6 PERCENT REDUCTION FROM ADMINISTRATION REQUEST. ACCORDING FINNEY, ADMINISTRATION WAS EXPECTED TO VIEW THE CUT IN MILITARY AID TO SAIGON MUCH MORE SERIOUSLY THAN CUTS IN WEAPONS PROGRAM, WHERE SOME CUTTING WAS EXPECTED.

2A. BALTSUN CORDDRY ALSO REPORTED THAT VIETNAM CUT, IF SUSTAINED BY BOTH HOUSES, WOULD REPRESENT A CONSIDERABLE FOREIGN POLICY REVERSE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAD SOUGHT 1.6 BILLION FOR SAIGON, PRESENT COMMITTEE FIGURE IS 900 MILLION. CORDDRY ALSO REPORTED COMMITTEE ACCEPTED NUNN'S INITIATIVES ON THREE ACTIONS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO NATO: 1, A 20 PERCENT CUT IN US ARMY IN EUROPE SUPPORT TROOPS OVER TWO YEARS, WHICH CORDDRY SAYS WOULD MEAN A TOTAL CUT OF ABOUT 23,000, ALTHOUGH THIS SAVED MANPOWER COULD BE USED FOR NEW COMBAT UNITS INSTEAD UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 105033

OF BEING BROUGHT HOME; 2, LIMIT US NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE TO THEIR PRESENT NUMBER OF ABOUT 7,000 WHILE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MAKES A STUDY OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR POLICY--BOTH OF THESE MOVES BEING IN ACCORD WITH SCHLESINGER'S THINKING, ACCORDING CORDDRY; 3, STANDARDIZE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT, WHICH HAS BEEN A NATO AIM FOR 25 YEARS. CORDDRY REPORTED THAT PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING MORE POWERFUL AND ACCURATE STRATEGIC WARHEADS REMAINED INTACT, DESPITE EARLIER OBJECTIONS OF SUBCOMMITTEE.

2B. TODAY'S WASHPOST JACK ANDERSON COLUMN STRESSES CHAIRMAN HEBERT OF HOUSE ARMED SERVICES ECHOES THE PENTAGON, ANDERSON CITING HEBERT'S COMMITTEE REPORT BACKING MORE

MILITARY AID FOR SAIGON AS ALMOST WORD-FOR-WORD BORROWED FROM PENTAGON.

2C. MONDAY NYTIMES HAS OP-ED PIECE BY SANFORD GOTTLIEB, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SANE, ANALYZING DEFENSE BUDGET AND STRESSING SIZE OF REQUEST WHICH COMES TO OVER 100 BILLIONS WHEN REGULAR AND SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGETS ARE ADDED, COMPARED TO 80.2 BILLION LAST YEAR, AND WHEN AEC IS INCLUDED. GOTTLIEB COMPARES THE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC WARHEADS OF THE US, 6784, WITH THAT FOR SOVIET UNION, 2,200. GOTTLIEB CONCLUDES THAT US, INSTEAD OF EMULATING THE SOVIETS IN MEANINGLESS BUILDUPS, SHOULD TRY TO NEGOTIATE A REAL REDUCTIONS IN OVERKILL CAPACITY.

3. INDIAN TEST. SUNDAY WASHSTAR NEW DELHI AP REPORTED

INDIA SET OFF ITS FIRST NUCLEAR BLAST TO BECOME THE WORLD'S SIXTH NUCLEAR POWER, AP ADDING PRIME MINISTER GANDHI PLEDGED TO USE ATOMIC ENERGY ONLY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. AP SAID US AND BRITAIN QUICKLY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER THE EXPLOSION AND RUSSIA REITERATED THE INDIAN POSITION THAT THE EXPLOSION WAS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES; FRANCE HAD NO IMMEDIATE COMMENT AND CHINA REPEATED ITS EARLIER STAND ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS; JAPAN ISSUED A PROTEST BUT SAID IT HOPED THE EXPLOSION WOULD NOT UPSET MOVES FOR PEACE ON SUBCONTINENT. AP ADDED INDIA HAD RESISTED AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN PRESSURE TO SIGN NONPROLIFERATION TREATY. AP QUOTED AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAYING: US HAS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 105033

ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BECAUSE OF THE ADVERSE IMPACT IT WILL HAVE ON WORLD STABILITY, AP ADDING THAT OTHER US OFFICIALS SAID PROVEN ABILITY OF INDIA TO MANUFACTURE NUCLEAR DEVICES APPEARS CERTAIN TO DISRUPT THE ALREADY UNSETTLED POLITICAL SITUATION ON THE SUBCONTINENT.

3A. BALTSUN SABHARWAL NEW DELHI STRESSED THAT BOTH MRS. GANDHI AND THE GOVERNMENT PRESS NOTE SAID THE PLUTONIUM DEVICE WAS PART OF INDIA'S RESEARCH PROGRAM AND THE GOVERNMENT REMAINS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY, DESPITE ITS NOT SIGNING THE NPT. STORY SAYS PM TRIED TO STEM INDIAN EUPHORIA BY STATING THAT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WAS NOTHING TO GET EXCITED ABOUT.

3B. WASHPOST SIMONS NEW DELHI QUOTED A SENIOR WESTERN DIPLOMAT SAYING: IT IS GOBBLEDYGOOK FOR THEM TO CLAIM THAT NOW THAT THEY HAVE THE ABILITY THEY WON'T USE IT TO MAKE WEAPONS, THE DIPLOMAT ADDING THAT INDIA AS A NUCLEAR FORCE WOULD BE A GOOD THING AS IT WOULD FREE THE COUNTRY FROM DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET UNION AND ENABLE IT TO NEGOTIATE A DETENTE WITH CHINA FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH. SIMONS

ADDS INDIA IS BOUND TO LOOK LESS PITIFUL--IF PERHAPS NOT QUITE MENACING--THAN IT DID YESTERDAY; BUT IT MAY ALSO LOOK CONSIDERABLY LESS CONVINCING AS A PROPONENT OF AN END TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE--AS WELL AS A NATION DESERVING FOREIGN AID.

3C. SUNDAY NYTIMES WEINRAUB NEW DELHI REPORTED INDIAN OFFICIALS SAYING INDIA WAS ENTIRELY WITHIN HER RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW IN EXPLODING THE DEVICE IN AN UNDERGROUND TEST, AS INDIA IS SIGNATORY TO 1963 TEST BAN TREATY.

3D. SUNDAY BALTSUN HAD AP REACTION STORY, REPORTING THAT US AND OTHER COUNTRIES REACTED WITH DISMAY TO INDIA'S EMERGENCE AS A NUCLEAR POWER, CITING SIMONE POULAIN AS MAKING THE STATEMENT QUOTED ABOVE NOTING CONSISTENT US OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION. STORY GIVES REACTIONS OF BRITAIN, CHINA, FRANCE AS ALREADY MENTIONED, ADDING SOME US OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE NOT SURPRISED AT THE DEVELOPMENT BUT QUESTIONED INDIA'S DECISION TO UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 105033

SPEND THE MONEY ON THE PROJECT.

3E. SUNDAY WASHPOST ROUNDUP STORY ADDED THAT AEC SAID IT HAD DETECTED THE INDIAN TEST. STORY ALSO QUOTED US OFFICIALS SAYING, IF INDIA DOES MOVE TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS IT PROBABLY WOULD BE TO COUNTER CHINA, BUT THEY ADDED INDIA COULD HARDLY HOPE TO CATCH UP WITH CHINA BECAUSE INDIA IS SO FAR BEHIND. STORY SAYS OTHER US OFFICIALS SAID DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR CAPACITY COULD DISRUPT AMERICAN-INDIAN RELATIONS AT A TIME WHEN THEY WERE BEGINNING TO IMPROVE, ADDING THERE COULD BE QUESTIONS RAISED IN CONGRESS ABOUT GIVING NEW DELHI ECONOMIC AID AFTER INDIA SPENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS ON ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND ONE US OFFICIAL SAID: I DON'T SEE HOW THIS IS GOING TO GROW MORE RICE, WHICH IS WHAT THE INDIANS NEED.

3F. SUNDAY WASHPOST O'TOOLE REPORTED THAT AMERICAN NUCLEAR EXPERTS WERE DISMAYED BY INDIAN BLAST OUT OF FEAR THAT OTHER NATIONS MIGHT NOW FOLLOW INDIA'S EXAMPLE, DR. THEODORE TAYLOR SAYING: I'M VERY DISCOURAGED THAT THEY JOINED THE CLUB; WHATEVER THEY WANT TO CALL THEIR REASON FOR BLOWING UP A BOMB, IT STILL MEANS THEY NOW HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ACCORDING O'TOOLE, EXPERTS FEAR IIA' ACTION MAY TRIGGER SIMILAR MOVES BY AS MANY AS A HALF DOZEN COUNTRIES, MOST LIKELY BEING ISRAEL, EGYPT, PAKISTAN AND SOUTH AFRICA. O'TOOLE NOTES THAT INDIAN POWER PLANTS HAVE BEEN FUELED BY URANIUM SUPPLIED BY ITSELF, US, AND CANADA, AND SEES A QUESTION WHETHER US AND CANADA WILL GO ON SUPPLYING COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA WITH URANIUM FOR POWER PLANTS, O'TOOLE ADDING THAT INDIA'S BLAST POSES A

SEVERE THREAT TO FUTURE OF NPT TREATY.

3G. SUNDAY NYTIMES GENEVA SPECIAL REPORTED THAT INFORMED SOURCES AT THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE SAW THE INDIAN TEST AS A MAJOR SETBACK FOR THE US AND SOVIET UNION, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL COMMENT BY PARTICIPANTS, WITH DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE SCATTERED FOR THE WEEKEND. HOWEVER, SPECIAL REPORTED, CONFERENCE SOURCES SAID THAT EVIDENTLY US AND SOVIET UNION HAD FAILED IN THEIR EFFORT TO USE THE ARMS TALKS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 105033

WEAPONS. THE INFORMED SOURCES SAID INDIA'S BLAST WILL HAVE A DESTABILIZING EFFECT ON THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, STRENGTHENING THE HANDS OF THOSE FACTIONS IN OTHER COUNTRIES THAT SEEK HIGHER BUDGETS FOR ARMAMENTS AS WELL AS THOSE WHO OPPOSE NPT TREATY.

3H. SUNDAY NYTIMES HEADED ITS WASHINGTON SPECIAL, TRAILER TO THE GENEVA STORY, US SEES ADVERSE IMPACT, AND QUOTING SPOKESMAN REPORTED ABOVE. SPECIAL ADDS INDIA'S ACTION COULD HAVE IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON JAPAN AND WEST GERMANY, WHICH HAVE SIGNED NPT AND INDICATED THEY WOULD ASK FOR PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION THIS YEAR.

4. COMMENT. MONDAY NYTIMES EDITORIAL SAYS INDIAN EXPLOSION RAISES ANOTHER MONUMENT TO HUMAN FOLLY; INDIAN LEADERS MAY PRIDE THEMSELVES ON A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT, BUT THE MORE APPROPRIATE ACTION WOULD BE ONE OF DESPAIR THAT SUCH GREAT TALENT HAS BEEN SQUANDERED ON THE VANITY OF POWER WHILE 600 MILLION INDIANS SLIP DEEPER INTO POVERTY. INDIAN SCIENCE HAS SO FAR FAILED TO SOLVE THE COUNTRY'S FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM OF FOOD AND POPULATION. EDITORIAL SAYS NUCLEAR TEST WILL INHIBIT, IF NOT REVERSE, PROMISING TREND TOWARD RECONCILIATION IN SOUTH ASIA AND WILL ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO TAKE THE NUCLEAR PATH AND THUS DESTROY NPT WHICH INDIA REFUSED TO SIGN BUT HAD PLEDGED TO HONOR. ACCORDING EDITORIAL, INDIA IS PURSUING ABERRATIONS COMMON TO MOST NATIONS, AND MAJOR POWERS BEAR HEAVIEST RESPONSIBILITY FOR CURRENT PREOCCUPATION WITH ARMS BECAUSE THEY FAILED TO FULFILL THEIR PLEDGE TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO REVERSE THEIR OWN NUCLEAR ARMS RACE. UNLESS SUPERPOWERS SOON POINT WAY TO SANITY BY THEIR OWN EXAMPLE, INDIA'S BLAST CONSTITUTES A DANGEROUS MOVE AWAY FROM WORLD'S ESSENTIAL EFFORTS TO RENDER A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST IMPOSSIBLE. RUSH

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